inverting at least one symbol in at least one character-istic location in at least certain instances of transmitting of each said data-modulated pilot signal using the respective said second spreading code.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

at least one said subscriber equipment performs step (b) in connection with a handoff in which the respective said subscriber equipment undergoes a transition from being served by a first of said base stations, to being served by a second of said base stations.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein:

said handoff is a soft handoff.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein:

said subscriber equipment perform step (b) in connection with set-up of respective calls.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein:

said certain instances of transmitting of each said data-modulated pilot signal are frames, and said character-istic location occurs at the beginning of each frame.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein:

said certain instances of transmitting of each data-modulated pilot signal using the respective said second spreading code are short relative to transmissions of traffic using each respective said first spreading code.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein:

each said base station performs said transmitting of step (a) synchronously in relation to others of said base stations.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:

each said base station performs said transmitting of step (a) asynchronously in relation to others of said base stations.

9. A method for synchronizing each of a plurality of units of subscriber equipment with transmissions of particular ones of a plurality of base stations, in a digital cellular radio network utilizing CDMA and having, in each cell of a plurality of cells of said network, at least one base station, each such base station having a respective coverage area and arranged to communicate with subscriber equipment within the respective said coverage area, each said base station being arranged for transmitting traffic for reception by subscriber equipment located within its respective said cov-erage area using a given frequency band and, for each subscriber equipment, a respective first spreading code which is unique to each respective subscriber equipment, said method comprising:

   each said base station transmitting a respective data-modulated pilot signal for reception by all subscriber equipment located within its respective said coverage area, using said given frequency band and a respective second spreading code which is different from each said first spreading code, including data-modulating said pilot signal by inverting at least one symbol in at least one characteristic location in at least certain instances of transmitting of each said data-modulated pilot signal using the respective said second spreading code; and

   each subscriber equipment automatically exploiting at least one said pilot signal for:

   (a) determining which one of said base stations to become presently served by, as a presently serving base station, on the basis of relative signal strength; and

   (b) achieving code and frame synchronization with the presently serving base station selected in step (a).

10. A base station for communicating with each of a plurality of units of subscriber equipment within a respective coverage area of a digital cellular radio network utilizing

CDMA, and having a plurality of base stations each having a respective coverage area, comprising:

   a transmitter including means for transmitting traffic for reception by subscriber equipment located within the respective said coverage area of said base station using a given frequency band and, for each subscriber equipment, a respective first spreading code which is unique to each respective subscriber equipment; and

   said transmitter also including means for transmitting a data-modulated pilot signal for reception by all sub-scriber equipment located within the respective said coverage area of said base station, using said given frequency band and a second spreading code which is different from each said first spreading code, for enabling each subscriber equipment to automatically exploit said data-modulated pilot signal for at least one of:

   (i) determining which one of said plurality of base stations, including said base station, to become pres-ently served by, as a presently serving base station, on the basis of relative signal strength and selecting that base station; and

   (ii) achieving code and frame synchronization with the presently serving base station selected in (i);

   said transmitter including means for data-modulating said pilot signal by inverting at least one symbol in at least one characteristic location in at least certain instances of transmitting of said data-modulated pilot signal using said second spreading code.

11. A subscriber equipment for use in plurality in digital cellular radio network utilizing CDMA, and having, in each of a plurality of cells of the network, at least one base station having a coverage area and arranged to communicate with said subscriber equipment when said subscriber equipment is located within the respective said coverage area, and in which system each said base station is arranged for trans-mitting traffic for reception by a subscriber equipment located within its respective said coverage area using a given frequency band and, for each subscriber equipment, a respective first spreading code which is unique to each respective subscriber equipment, and for transmitting a data-modulated pilot signal for all subscriber equipment located within its respective said coverage area, using said given frequency band and a second spreading code which is different from each said first spreading code, said subscriber equipment comprising:

   means for automatically exploiting data received on at least one said data-modulated pilot signal for at least one of:

   (i) determining which of said base stations to become presently served by, as presently serving base station, on the basis of relative signal strength and selecting that base station; and

   (ii) achieving code and frame synchronization with the presently serving base station selected in (i); and

   means for receiving traffic transmitted by the resentl servin base station using the respective said first spreading code;

   said means for automatically exploiting data received on at least one pilot signal including means for automati-cally exploiting said data when generated by said data-modulated pilot signal has become data-modulated by inverting at least one symbol in at least one characteristic location in at least certain instances of transmitting of said data-modulated signal by the base station selected in step (i) using said second spreading code.

* * * * *